

IF CHRIST BE NOT RISEN

Suppose that one day this earth were suddenly to break out of its own orbit, were not to go circling round the sun anymore, but were to fly off at a tangent, farther and farther away out into the cold immensities of space; and men waited wonderingly for the coming of the Spring and it never came, waited with weariness for the birds' return and the buds on the trees, and there was never a sign of it, only deeper and ever deeper winter until at the last the truth broke, and there was a great, bitter cry--"We are doomed!" It is the same wild shudder of the soul that meets you here--"If Christ be not risen!"

Long ago some one read the story of the death of Jesus to King Clovis, who was a barbarian, not a Christian; and suddenly, as the story went on, his hand reached for his sword, and drew it, and "Oh," he cried, "if only I had been there with my Franks! We'd have charged up the slopes of Calvary, and smashed those Romans, and saved Him!" But if God, watching Calvary, did nothing--left it at that, and knew this was the end of Christ forever, then there will be not one shadow or title of evidence that God is love." Our faith is vain.

Now why? Why is that involved in it? Ah, you can see why. For here was Jesus, who had lived an absolutely perfect life--- crucified, dead, buried, and that was all! Here was Jesus, who all His life long had trusted that God would deliver Him, that God would "not leave His soul in hell, not suffer His Holy One to see corruption"--and God did nothing. You can't trust God after that, says Paul, neither His love, nor His power.

Paul, the apostle, were he with us today, would say to our question of Christ's resurrection: "Why, He arrested me riding to Damascus, and He has been power to my life ever since! I have seen Him, felt Him--and I know." Can you say that? Say it in all sincerity, and with no exaggeration at all---"It is not I who lives, but Christ who lives in me: and I have actually felt His presence and His power." Then you have the evidence in yourself. You know. And you can say, with Savonarola, "They may kill me if they please; but they will never, never, never tear the living Christ from my heart!"

REV PAUL NAGANO

With sun eclipsed and earthquake shock
the crucifiers fled,

And panic-stricken, spread the word

The Christ! The Christ is dead!

The fate of Jesus on the Cross brought

Night and dark despair;

Man's faith in Him seemed turned to dust

And vain the voice of prayer.

Death sealed the tomb with tears and grief

When friends laid Christ away,

Earth's hopes were crushed, all seemed lost

Upon that dismal day.

Another day was yet to dawn, the day

When Christ arose

Triumphant over sin and death, a

Victor over foes.

Angels of God announced, "Christ lives!

The Lord of life is He!

They moved the stone that sealed the grave

And set death's prisoner free!

Because Christ lives, we too shall live!

His words dispel our gloom,

He lights for us the shadowed vale

And lifts us from the tomb!

Hail then with joy this Easter morn,

Rejoice! Rejoice and sing!

Around the world proclaim the news

Of Christ, our saviour King!

TESTIMONY

As I sit out here alone among the lovely mesquite trees, I feel a sense of humbleness--a sense of unworthiness in giving this testimony in writing for my blessed Lord. I wish I could express in big and elaborate words how much I love and cherish my Jesus, but try as I may, I can't find words good enough or beautiful enough to express my deepest feelings for Him. I wish I could write some touching poems or compose some beautiful hymns to express my love for Him, but these too, I cannot do. But so now, with simple words and simple thoughts I'll try my best to express how precious my Saviour has been to me and what a Christian life has meant to me.

First of all, I can't help but look back and see how my blessed Saviour has guided me whenever I went. Truly, He has guided me moment by moment, and step by step. Without Him I would be lost in this dark world. But thanks be unto God, I knew Him and He has led me with His guiding hands. No matter what problems, what trials, what temptations came up, He was right there beside me leading me, guiding me, and comforting me. Oh! How wonderful it is to know that He is ever present in times of need.

Secondly, I wish to express my gratitude to my dear Christian friends, my Caucasian friends back home and to my sisters--for without their earnest prayers and their comforting words, I would be lost in my faith and trust in the Lord. I'm so thankful that He has given me such wonderful companions. Oh! That I might strive to be worthy of their friendships.

Thirdly, I, along with the rest of the Christians, can earnestly say, "Precious Father, we're very thankful that Thou didst give us this evacuation." Truly, never before have we been drawn closer to our blessed Lord. Truly, never before have we had such sweet fellowship with our Christian friends. And truly, never before have we had such blessed times with our loving Father. I pray that as we spend our time here, we may all realize the reality of our risen Saviour. At the close of this simple but true testimony, I know there is peace and victory in my heart, because Jesus Christ has given me this peace which passeth all understanding and has given me this victory on the cross of Calvary.

I wish to close with the following poem, because it is a poem of challenge to me. I pray that I might take up this challenge and truly glorify and proclaim His blessed Name.

Just where you stand in the conflict,
There is your place;
Just where you think you are useless,
Hide not your face.
God placed you there for a purpose,
Whatever it may be;
He has chosen YOU for it,
There work loyally.

One of His unworthy child,
Fudge Hirashima

christian endeavor news

"Music Night" was the theme of the combined Y.P. Christian Endeavor Societies meeting last Sunday evening with Miss Tayeko Kitahata as Chairman. The program included the group singing of hymns, a period of meditation, and the reading of the prepared message. The program was included on the pro-

sunday school

Since our arrival in Poston last August, a group of earnest and faithful young people have been attending Sunday School regularly. The list of those who have perfect attendance records after their names have been compiled and printed for your enjoyment.

We pray that God will bless each one for his faithfulness Sunday after Sunday and hope that many others will be able to attend more regularly in the future.

Yoshiko Okimoto
Wesley Nakasora
Roy Watari
Hideo Tanaka
Keiko Yoshida
Yoshiko Ishimoto
Akira Nishimoto
Akinori Soyama
Margaret Takahashi
Kikuno Tajiri
Betty Wake
Yotsuko Sakaji
Sam Kamada
Robert Iciri
Peter Shizume
David Kagiwada
Dorothy Takahashi
Kay Imai
Tom Tajiri
Florence Takahashi
Hisayo Watari

SINGSPIRATION

An impressive candlelight service climaxed this week's Singspiration on Thursday evening. Following the usual singing of favorite rounds and other lively songs, a period of quiet meditation was held in the dimly candlelighted room as the pianist continued to play hymns.

The Girls' Choir presented a beautiful rendition of "The Saviour For Me" followed by the reading of a poem.

Another unique "Sing" is in store for those planning to attend next week's gathering. According to announcements, a special program is scheduled for that evening.

gram were a piano solo by Chieko Ooka and songs by the Jr. Girls' Trio and Men's quartet.